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For Immediate Release

Making the Leap: Crossing Borders

Curated by Renee Riccardo

December 1, 2010 – January 2, 2011

Reception: Thursday, December 2nd from 6pm to 8:30pm

BROOKLYN, NY December 2010 – A.I.R. Gallery is pleased to announce *Making the Leap: Crossing Borders*, a group exhibition of Asian-American women artists curated by Renee Riccardo, and organized by 2009-2010 Fellowship Artists Jee Hwang and Kira Greene. The opening reception will be held Thursday, December 2nd from 6pm – 8:30pm.

Making the Leap: Crossing Borders features the work of 14 Asian-American Immigrant artists, which, with diverse perspectives and methods, confronts issues of identity, separation from the familiar, and deviation from conservative social structures and traditional gender roles.

The artists in *Making the Leap: Crossing Borders* confront new situations by challenging preconceived notions of reality. **Haejae Lee's** fantastical paintings meld the harsh political propaganda of North Korea with the Western pop culture. The work of **Ajean Ryan** investigates Western fairy tales by re-narrating and rewriting the stories that she tells her own bi-racial daughter. **Deniz Tirpanci's** collage *Dinner Party* depicts a sense of chaos, displacement and discomfort even in simple multicultural experiences.

Notions of adaptation and assimilation are addressed in three arresting photographic and video pieces. **Arin Yoon** documents the everyday lives of Korean-American women in Northern New Jersey, and **Naoko Wowsugi** examines language problems and stereotypes many Asian immigrants face in her humorous and compelling video *Frank*. **Kyoung Eun Kang** creates a beautiful metaphorical struggle of adaptation, as she contrasts stones sent from her Korean mother with New York City Streets. And the sculptural work of **Saeri Kiritani** entitled *100 lbs of Rice* addresses the shocking dietary changes immigrants face.

Traditional art forms and modern realities collide as the artists reconcile temporal, cultural, and technological differences. **Sin-ying Ho** blends customary porcelain vases and Pop Culture imagery using computer decal transfer techniques. **Suyeon Na** photographs herself in the public sphere of New York City dressed in native clothing traditionally intended to hide Asian women. In **Chao-Ying Lin** and **Yen-Ting Chung's** breathtaking video titled *Nest*, traditional ink drawing collides and interacts with computer animations.

Four artists specifically address physical and gendered identity. **Jeesoo Shin** documents herself as a character in the Asian subculture *cosplay* undergoing dramatic identity changes that subvert traditional expectations of Asian women. **Yi-Hsin Tzeng** pours paint over her shaved head in her video *The Last Painting*, to challenge her own personal physical boundaries as well as those that Asian women experience globally. **Gyung Jin Shin** also uses her body as a medium that defies a fixed identity: in her performance video *Smiley Suicide* Shin exists as a field where opposite values, meanings, and emotions meet. **Yijun Liao** photographs and exhibits the taboo – her relationship with a young immigrant – and questions norms of sex, power, gender, race, and age. *Making the Leap: Crossing Borders* frames a dynamic dialogue and expresses a plural vision of the contemporary Asian-American female experience.

A.I.R. Gallery is located at 111 Front Street, #228 in the DUMBO neighborhood of Brooklyn. Gallery hours: Wed. – Sun., 11am to 6pm. For directions please visit www.airgallery.org. For more information please contact Gallery Director, Kat Griefen at 212-255-6651 or kgriefen@airgallery.org.

